

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

CRB-00111-77  
30 November 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Information Services Staff

FROM : Chief, PIAG/CRB

SUBJECT : Investigation of Release of OSS Documents to  
National Archives

REFERENCE : Your Memorandum Titled as above dated 31 October 1977

1. As requested in reference, a survey was made to determine what security precautions are taken at National Archives (NARS) to protect classified material in its custody and how effective are these procedures. Discussions with appropriate personnel at National Archives and in this Agency lead this writer to the conclusion that the risk of possible exposure or compromise of classified material at NARS is minimal.

2. Personnel at NARS are not overly enamored with the idea of handling classified material even though they are set up to handle classified records. Given the nature of the charter under which NARS operates, it is more appropriate for that organization to receive and accession unclassified material which can be made readily available to the public. Notwithstanding, when National Archives does receive classified material, there is appropriate secure storage space suitable to effect control and access to these records. Classified storage areas at NARS are limited to security cleared NARS personnel and these areas are inaccessible to the public. Any request made for records in such a classified collection is serviced by cleared NARS personnel. The system is not entirely fool proof since retrieval of records may in some cases be done by GS-04's and GS-05's who may not always be fully cognizant of security implications. However, overall the system does appear to provide normal and reasonable protection and at an acceptable level of risk. NARS personnel are most cooperative and are responsive to the security needs of this Agency.

3. Conversations were initiated with Col. Raymond Tagge, document Appraiser at NARS on 10 November 1977 concerning the possibility of "offering" the OSS record collection to NARS. A second meeting took place on 23 November in the office of [REDACTED] Col. Tagge has agreed to prepare a preliminary draft of a memorandum proposing a conditional offering to NARS of the OSS records. Col. Tagge will include in his draft a special section entitled "restrictions" in which various conditions, caveats and limitations may be spelled out. The draft should be returned to [REDACTED] sometime in December for review and any changes or additions which this Agency may wish to make.

4. Col. Tagge anticipates that he will be able to schedule time for  
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an appraisal of the "offering" by late winter or early spring. Col. Tagge is currently involved in several other appraisal jobs and is also working on five (5) Records Control Schedules for this Agency. He will not be able to schedule the OSS appraisal until after completing those jobs. Col. Tagge does not appear overly concerned about obtaining an early acquisition of these records. In an off-hand remark he indicated that NARS had no real claim to physical possession of these records until they were 50 years old. It is obvious, however, that early possession of these records by NARS would benefit the public and other researchers. Col. Tagge has no problem with the manner in which the review of OSS documents is currently being handled although he does recognize that based on his appraisal of these documents that some small adjustments will be required in the future to bring the declassification review and processing in line with such recommendations as he may make after a detailed appraisal of these holdings.

5. Recommendations concerning the handling and disposition of the OSS records would be somewhat premature at this time. Recommendations will be made following further discussions with Col. Tagge and after he completes his appraisal of the OSS records. The above action is being closely coordinated with appropriate offices and officers in DDA and ISAS.

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31 OCT 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, PIAG/CRB

FROM:

[REDACTED]  
Chief, Information Services Staff

STATINTL

SUBJECT: Investigation of Release of OSS Documents  
to National Archives.

STATINTL

1. In the course of our discussion with [REDACTED] on Wednesday, 26 October, we referred to the growing volume of OSS material which has been reviewed and the bulk of which has been identified as declassifiable. We all agreed that we should explore placing these reviewed materials in the custody of the National Archives. The risk of possible exposure of those materials which must remain classified was discussed, you will recall, and it became apparent that we need more information on the procedures which NARS would use to protect such classified information in its custody.

2. I would like to ask you to undertake a formal exploration of this problem both with ISAS and National Archives personnel and to report on your findings by the end of November. Depending on the results of this investigation, we may wish to develop a set of recommendations to be presented jointly by ISS and ISAS to the Acting DDA, the DDO and the Acting DDCI.

[REDACTED]  
STATINTL

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